



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Washington, DC

MAR 28 2000 2 6 19 '00 APR 20 AIO :04

Mr. Zlatko Batistich
100 12th Street
Cresskill, New Jersey 07626

Dear Mr. Batistich:

This responds to your letter of March 12, 2000. As you may know, FDA held three public meetings relative to the safety and labeling of foods produced through biotechnology last fall. Because the final statement in your letter expressed support for labeling, I am by copy of this letter forwarding it to FDA's docket on this matter.

The best way for me to respond to your concern about the makeup of the delegation to the Codex Ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology is to let you see what I have said in writing. I am, therefore, enclosing a copy of the letter that I sent to Mr. Cohen. I trust that this responds to your inquiry.

Sincerely yours,

L. Robert Lake
Director of Regulations and Policy
Center for Food Safety
and Applied Nutrition

Enclosure

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HFA-305 (Dockets)

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100 12th Street
Cresskill, NJ 07626

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March 12, 2000

Robert Lake
Executive Officer for Codex
U.S. Codex Contact Point
Food Safety and Inspection Service
US Department of Agriculture
Room 4861 South Building
1400 Independence Avenue S.W.
Washington D.C. 20250-3700

Dear Mr. Lake:

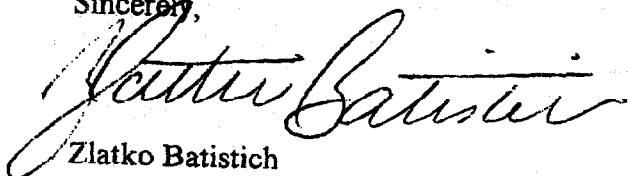
I am writing to vigorously protest your removal of Mr. Robert Cohen from the U.S. delegation to the CODEX biotechnology and food labeling session in Tokyo, Japan held on March 13-17.

For years, Mr. Cohen has been trying to get the FDA to release a study (authored by Richard, Odaglia, and Deslex) claiming that laboratory animals got cancer from the genetically engineered bovine growth hormone. Cohen possesses evidence that Monsanto created "freak" amino acids while manufacturing that hormone and claims that Monsanto defrauded the FDA by not revealing those errors.

The New England Journal of Medicine and other respected journals have all reported incidents of genetically modified organisms producing unanticipated toxins or allergens. There are many Americans who have very serious doubts about genetically manipulated foods and who want definitive labeling. By removing Mr. Cohen from the CODEX delegation you have removed the voice of many Americans who are very concerned about what their families are eating.

Mr. Cohen believes that Americans have the right to know what they eat. Do you?

Sincerely,


Zlatko Batistich